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May 6, 2021

Dear Oversight Committee,

Millions of Michiganders have great concerns with the newly developed COVID vaccines. When confronted with the fact that many people do not want the COVID vaccine, public health believes that it is a problem of messaging and proper "incentives." This is not the case. People have legitimate concerns. There are risks that must be weighed on an individual level. What if the cure if worse than the disease for some people? Should those people lose their freedoms to work, to attend leisure activities, to obtain an education, to travel? Because there is no liability for the manufacturers, the individual must make an informed choice freely to accept any potential risks or harms. Because we have no data on any long-term safety, the choice needs to be made freely, without the use of coercion, punishments, or bullying.

The Vaccine Passport will be the Symbol of the new inequality. One of the main problems of vaccine passports is that it makes vaccination status a part of one's public identity, functioning as a kind of social currency that enables one to access the once-normal benefits of society. They will create a two-class system with a loss of privacy and loss of freedoms. They will create segregation and discrimination, evils that I and most Americans stand against. Vaccine passports are un-American.

America needs healing. It needs bridge-building, not divisions. We need to strengthen democracy, not undermine it by disregarding concerns and forcing people to accept medical interventions they are not comfortable with after weighting the risks and benefits. Please support HB 4667 to prevent the government from producing or issuing a vaccine passport or from providing an incentive to use a vaccine passport.

Yours in Health,

Patricia Neuenschwander, MSN, RN, CPNP-PC